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## Portland Press Herald

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### Local Dispatches

From staff and news services

#### BATH

##### **Moody's: BIW contracts give city of Bath revenue stability**

Warship contracts that were awarded recently to Bath Iron Works will bring years of revenue stability to the city of Bath, which relies heavily on BIW's tax revenue, according to a newsletter from Moody's, a financial research firm.

"These contracts are credit positive for the city of Bath . . . and other nearby municipalities in midcoast Maine, given BIW's significant contribution to the regional economy," said Moody's Weekly Credit Outlook newsletter, released Monday.

It said BIW is Bath's largest taxpayer, accounting for 40 percent of the city's assessed property value.

In late September, the Navy awarded BIW a \$680 million contract to build an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. The company, which employs 5,400 workers, also has contracts to build three Zumwalt-class destroyers.

The prediction comes despite looming Pentagon budget cuts. Moody's believes the Navy is unlikely to cancel destroyer contracts given the government's longstanding relationship with BIW and the Navy's publicly stated intent to continue ordering Arleigh Burkes for years.

#### WINDHAM

##### **Owner of Keddy Mill asks for more time to study pollution**

The owner of the Keddy Mill is asking for more time to assess the extent of contamination at the site in South Windham.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection had asked the mill's owner, HRC Village at Little Falls, to submit a plan by Friday for testing the site for contaminants. The owner responded with a letter asking to extend that deadline until Dec. 16, said David Wright, director of the DEP's remediation division.

Previous testing showed widespread toxic polychlorinated biphenyls, known as PCBs, in the concrete of the mill building and in the ground throughout the property.

Wright said a more comprehensive assessment of the level of contamination is necessary to



determine the best way to clean up the site. That cleanup, he said, may be led by the owner, the DEP or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DEP officials were still considering Monday whether to grant an extension to the mill owner or move forward with a different plan.

HRC Village at Little Falls had planned to develop a condominium complex in the building, the former home of a paper mill and later a foundry, which closed 40 years ago. That plan was shelved in 2009 amid the recession and mounting environmental concerns.

## **PORTLAND**

### **City invites submissions for supplying the holiday tree**

As Mainers think about the perfect costume for Halloween this year, the city arborist is already seeking the perfect tree for the holiday season.

"Each year we look for a stately and well-rounded tree within 10 miles of Portland that a resident needs to have taken down. If selected, the tree will be cut down and transported downtown at no cost to the homeowner," said Portland Arborist Jeff Tarling.

The city is looking for a 40- to 60-foot-tall tree that will be decorated in Monument Square with hundreds of LED lights to usher in the holiday season.

Anyone who thinks they have the perfect tree should submit a photo, address and the phone number of the owner to [info@portlandmaine.com](mailto:info@portlandmaine.com). Submissions can also be mailed to Portland's Downtown District at 549 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

### **Grant to help Maine police maintain officer numbers**

Six police departments are getting \$1.3 million in federal funds to hire and retain officers.

U.S. Sen. **Olympia Snowe** said the funding from the Department of Justice comes as the state's law enforcement agencies deal with the growing use of so-called bath salts, a synthetic drug that can cause people to become violent and delusional.

The funding will go to six police departments, in Dixfield, Greenville, Limestone, Lincoln, Richmond and Scarborough. The departments will receive \$165,000 to \$410,000 each.

### **'Gazillion Bubble Show' cancels Merrill appearance**

Citing a need to fine-tune technical elements of the show, the producers of the "Gazillion Bubble Show" have canceled a planned stop at Merrill Auditorium in Portland on Thursday. Wednesday night's show in Orono has not yet been canceled.

For the past five years, bubble artist Fan Yang has staged the theatrical show in New York and elsewhere. Last week, the show began a national tour, produced by Tony Award-winning producer Jon B. Platt. Portland was to be the third stop on the tour.

For information about ticket refunds, contact PortTix at 842-0800.